

NSC Project re Power Positions

The Power Positions project would not produce a policy paper. Rather, it would produce an authoritative, objective analysis of the broad trends in the relative power positions of the Free World and the Sino-Soviet Bloc - a tool for long-range policy planning.

It should be emphasized that the project envisages an estimate of future trends in the power positions, non-military as well as military, of the Free World nations (committed as well as uncommitted) and of the Sino-Soviet Bloc, through 1965 and 1970. While military and economic power will, of course, be of major concern in the projection, of equal concern will be less tangible and less traditional, but no less important, elements such as common culture, national goals, structure of government, moral character, and the like. Thus there would, for once, be examined all of the significant factors that make for a nation's power, as a single nation or in concert with its allies and friends, in order to arrive at broad but meaningful judgments concerning trends in the relative power of either side to achieve its purposes against the other through the exertion on other nations and on each other of influence in a range from the gentlest persuasion to full military compulsion. The papers upon which these judgments would be based would be so arranged that selective comparison, both area-wise and functionally, would be likewise possible. They would bear an appropriately high classification and would be controlled and distributed accordingly. It could be the forerunner of similar reviews in future years.

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